(a) the number of studio centres in the country and how many of them have complete digitalization and partial digitalization;

(b) the details of the studio centres earmarked for complete digitalization and partial digitalization during 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on each centre covered under(b) above?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Sixty three Doordarshan (DD) studio centres and 206 radio centres are currently operational in the country. Of these, 9 Doordarshan studio centres and 79 radio centres are fully digitalized while 9 Doordarshan studio centres and 59 radio centres are partially digitalized.

(b) and (c) During 2005-06 and 2006-07, ten studio centres of Doordarshan are targeted to be fully digitalized and twenty-two partially digitalized, at a cost of about Rs.164 crore. As regards All India Radio, 61 and 66 studio centres are to be completely digitalized during 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively, at a cost of approximately Rs.31.91 crore. Their implementation would however, depend on approval and availability of funds.

Punjabi language in DD/AIR

2744. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjabi is one of the National languages and it is second language in Haryana and Delhi;

(b) how much time is devoted on Punjabi language in Doordarshan and All India Radio Stations in Haryana and Delhi;

(c) whether news in Punjabi is broadcasted on TV and Radio Stations in Haryana, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) .whether any special programmes in Punjabi language are produced in these States?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Punjabi is one of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. It is second language in

Delhi. Information in respect of State of Haryana is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Ooordarshan Kendra, Delhi telecasts 'Punjabi Darpan' programme 30 minutes once in a week on regional basis and Programme Generation Facility (PGF), Hissar (Haryana) telecasts a 10 minutes Punjabi programme once in a week. AIR also broadcasts programmes in Punjabi language from AIR, Kurukshetra (Haryana) for 30 minutes and from AIR, Delhi 60 minutes daily.

(c) Doordarshan does not telecast news in Punjabi language from Stations located in these States and Delhi. However, AIR broadcasts three daily bulletins in Punjabi language from AIR, Delhi and one bulletin in its External Services. There is no Punjabi news bulletin from AIR stations in Haryana. However, two news bulletins in Punjabi are broadcast from AIR, Chandigarh. Broadcasts from AIR's 300 KW Medium Wave transmitter at Jallandhar can be heard in some parts of Haryana as well.

(d) DDK, Delhi telecasts the 'Punjabi Kavi Darbar' held on the occasion of the Independence Day and Republic Day. AIR, Delhi arranges special programmes in the form of direct relays from various Gurudwaras on important Gurupurabs.

Reporting in media

2745. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of substantive reporting and in-depth analysis in the media had deteriorated; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Press in India, and the quality of its output is free from Government control. The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory authority established for preserving the freedom of Press and for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. PCI has set Norms for Journalistic Ethics. Norms laid down by PCI state that Editors must